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ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IS, IR
SUBJECT: AWACS AND THE ISRAELI RAID INTO IRAQ
REF: (A) JIDDA 4143 (B) BEIRUT 3836 (C) AMMAN 4425

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/3/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. (LOU) IN VIEW OF THE RUMORS NOW PROLIFERATING IN THE ARAB WORLD THAT THE AWACS STATIONED IN SAUDI ARABIA MUST HAVE SEEN THE ISRAELI APPROACH TO BAGHDAD BUT DID NOT TELL THE SAUDIS (REFTELS), THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS FOR A STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN AND FOR REPETITION TO ARAB POSTS FOR THEIR USE IN SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT. THIS INFORMATION WILL ALSO ALLAY THE SUSPICION ON THE PART OF SOME THAT THE AWACS MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME ROLE IN THE ISRAELI OPERATION AND WILL HELP SUBSTANTIATE THE U.S. OFFICIAL STATEMENT DENYING FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE RAID.
2. (U) THE AWACS (E3C) WERE CONDUCTING THEIR USUAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS BETWEEN THEIR BASE, RIYADH, AND THE ARABIAN GULF COAST.
3. (U) E3C RADARS WERE ENGAGED IN THE MISSION AGREED LAST SEPTEMBER WITH THE SAG, WHICH IS TO MAINTAIN SURVEIL-
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LANCE OF AERIAL ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH-EASTERN AND EASTERN APPROACHES (I.E., FROM ACROSS THE GULF) TO THE SAUDI ARABIAN OILFIELDS AND PETROLEUM FACILITIES.
4. (U) THE ISRAELI F-15/F-16 FLIGHT PATHS TO AND FROM BAGHDAD WERE WELL BEYOND THE RANGE OF THE E3C RADARS. (THAT RANGE, ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED SOURCES, IS APPROXIMATELY 250 MILES).
5. (U) AS IS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE, ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE (RSAF) PERSONNEL WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE AWACS ACTIVITY, AND, HAD THE ISRAELI OPERATION BEEN DETECTED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO SUPPRESS THIS INFORMATION.
6. (U) IN SUM, THE AWACS ACTIVITY WAS CARRYING OUT ITS ROUTINE ASSIGNMENT AND HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISRAELI STRIKE UNTIL THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT OCCURRED. NEUMANN
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